



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

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Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 2016

TO: All Judges
cc: Court Administrators
Probate Registers

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

SUBJECT: MiCOURT Update

Just as you are striving to improve service to the public, SCAO is working to improve service to trial courts. In this regard, there is no more important service than the case management systems that are developed and supported by our Judicial Information Services division (JIS). Since case management systems are the lifeblood of courts statewide, we decided to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of our strategy to transition all JIS courts to the new MiCOURT Desktop platform.

MiCOURT Desktop was designed to add a broad range of new functionality to improve efficiency and customer service while putting under one platform all of the various systems that had been designed specifically for each kind of court. However, our recently completed evaluation revealed that if the current strategy were maintained, it would take as long as 10 years to migrate all JIS courts to the MiCOURT Desktop. This would mean that users of other MiCOURT Suite applications like DCS, CCS, TCS, and PCS could go as long as 14 years without any substantive feature enhancement to their systems. Clearly, such lengthy time frames are not workable and improvements are necessary.

After extensive consultation with courts all across Michigan, we have adopted a new strategy to more swiftly deliver value and new functionality to all JIS courts:

1. No more waiting for MiCOURT Desktop and no more massive migrations of data. Each current MiCOURT Desktop court will be working with JIS to develop a customized reboot to get them on track for new functionality.

2. Reorganizing JIS to restore the focus on customer service and implementing a plan to build our capacity to solve problems that have plagued courts for years.
3. Delivering a steady stream of smaller improvements in functionality on a regular basis. For example, we are currently introducing a new calendar integration function that saves clerks from having to double enter calendar items both in the case management system and in their Outlook calendars. Already available to JIS-hosted district courts, this new functionality will soon be available to other courts. This application was completed in just five weeks, and we hope it will serve as a model of improved efficiencies as we roll out other features courts have told us they want.
4. Strengthening data security while relieving courts of the burden of maintaining MiCOURT Suite programs like DCS and CCS on site. We will do this by offering courts statewide the option to move these systems off of their AS400s to a cloud-based environment. By doing so, courts will no longer need to worry about updating this software, backing up data, or disaster recovery. This consolidation will relieve local courts of an expensive burden.

This is good news for all JIS courts because new features will be in the pipeline through regular enhancements to the case management system you already have. For courts already on the MiCOURT Desktop platform, this strategy is a path to solve performance issues and add functionality while maintaining efficiency and continuity in your case management process.

Thank you for the patience and understanding you have shown as we have partnered with trial courts to develop this new strategy. If you have questions about what this means for your court, please contact Chief Information Officer Cody Gross at 517-373-9021 or GrossC@courts.mi.gov.